

TITLE I: REGULATORY REFORMS

- **Sportsmen Trust Funds**

Exempts the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund and the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Safety Trust Funds (“Sportsmen Trust Funds”) from sequestration.

The Office of Management and Budget determined that funding released to the states from the Trust Funds are subject to sequestration. In FY2013, \$50 million was sequestered from the Sportsmen Trust Funds. That will increase to \$82 million in FY2014. Without an agreement to modify the terms, additional cuts will continue for the life of the sequester.

Money for the trust funds derive from federal excise taxes -- not from federal income taxes -- and are critically important to states across the country. State agencies use Trust Fund apportionments to restore and manage fisheries and wildlife habitats, open and maintain recreational access; and deliver hunter and boating safety education.

- **Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (S.1505)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Thune

Excludes ammo and fishing tackle from the Toxic Substances Control Act, leaving decisions about tackle to State Fish and Game Agencies and the Fish and Wildlife Service, who currently regulate ammo and tackle. The EPA has denied petitions to regulate tackle and ammo under TSCA in 1994 and again in 2011.

- **Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (S.738)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Wicker

Grants the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize any state to issue electronic duck stamps. These “e-stamps” are valid for 45 days.

- **Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act (S.847)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Crapo

Permits the Secretary of the Interior to authorize permits for re-importation of legally harvested Polar Bears from approved populations in Canada before the 2008 ban.

- **Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (S.1212)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Udall (CO)

Enables states to allocate a greater proportion of federal funding to create and maintain shooting ranges

- **Farmer and Hunter Protection Act***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Pryor

Authorizes USDA extension offices to determine normal agricultural practices rather than the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In some instances, FWS has interpreted the Migratory Bird Act to treat hunting of migrating birds on rolled fields as re-growth as baiting. Baiting migratory birds with grain is illegal and can result in fines up to \$10,000 and the halting of hunting on the grounds considered baited. Normal agricultural practices are not considered baiting. This bill aims to set clear criteria on what constitutes “normal agricultural practices” by having the FWS refer to local USDA extension offices for the determination.

- **Permits for Film Crews of Five People or Less.**

Directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal land for film crews of five persons or fewer.

The current rules for filming and photographing on federal lands and waterways are burdensome on individual journalists and small film crews wishing to participate in these activities on federal lands. This section prohibits additional fees from being assessed on individuals or small film crews that possess permits.

TITLE II: IMPROVING ACCESS

- **Making Public Lands Public:**

Requires that 1.5% of annual LWCF funding be made available to secure, through rights-of-way, or the acquisition of lands, or interests from willing sellers, recreational public access to existing federal public lands that have significantly restricted access to hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes.

- **Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization (S.368)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Heinrich

Permanently reauthorizes FLTFA. FLTFA’s authorization expired July 2011. FLTFA enables the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to sell land to private owners, counties, companies and others for ranching, community development and other projects. This “Land for Land” approach creates jobs and generates funding for BLM, USFS, NPS and USFWS to acquire critical in-holdings from willing sellers.

Prior to July 2011, BLM completed hundreds of sales, generating over \$117 million and funding 39 conservation projects. At least 80% of funds from the sale or exchange of public land must be used to acquire high priority lands. Revenue would

be generated for funding the program through the sale of lands in both current and future BLM Resource Management Plans (RMP) rather than only those in place on the date of re-authorization.

The text is from the bill reported by the Senate Energy Committee earlier this year.

- **Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act (S.170)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Murkowski

Directs Federal land management agencies to facilitate hunting and fishing on Federal lands; and to ensure scientific management of wildlife and their habitat.

Requires the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to keep their lands open to hunting, recreational fishing, and shooting, and facilitate the use of and access to federal public lands and waters for these activities.

- **Studies required by the Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures Act (S.1554)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Heinrich

Directs federal agencies to inventory all public lands larger than 640 acres where hunting and fishing are legal but inaccessible, then work with neighboring landowners to purchase parcels that facilitate access from willing sellers.

TITLE III: HABITAT CONSERVATION

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act Reauthorization (S.741)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Vitter

Reauthorizes NAWCA through fiscal year 2017. Authorization for NAWCA expired on October 1, 2012.

NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations, state and local governments, and private landowners for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands critical to the habitat of migratory birds. Over the last 20 years, this program has funded over 1,600 projects that conserved more than 20 million acres of wetlands across North America. NAWCA is also cost-effective, with every dollar of federal funding traditionally generating three dollars in non-federal money.

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization (S.51)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Boxer

Reauthorizes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), a non-profit that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats. NFWF directs public conservation dollars to pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded over 11,600 grants to

more than 4,000 organizations in the United States, investing a total of \$2 billion for conservation.

- **Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauth. (S.231)***

Lead Sponsor: Senator Portman

Amends the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 to require such stamps to be available for an additional four years; and provide five versions depicting African or Asian elephants, a rhinoceros, a tiger, a marine turtle or a great ape.

- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife:**

Reauthorizes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program through 2018. Authorization for the program expired in 2011.

This program works in a non-regulatory, cooperative fashion to help private landowners with habitat restoration on their property. This cost-share program focuses on improving wetland, riparian, in-stream, fish passage, sage-steppe, grassland and aquatic habitats that provide benefits to migratory birds, threatened or endangered species, and other sensitive and declining species.